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POL 14 VIETS

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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1. NATIONAL ASSEMELY DEPUTY NGUYEN VAN NGAI, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET PARTY "CENTRAL ELECTION COMMITTEE" HAS ISSUED DECLARATION ON THE DEATH OF RDV MEMBER FRO FESSOR TRAN VINH ANH. ACCORDING TO DAI VIET COMMUNIQUE, FIELD GRADE ARVN OFFICER APPROACHED ANH ON JULY 7 AND ASKED HIM "TO WORK FOR A PRESIDENTIAL SLATE." ANH REFUSED, AND TOLD

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OFFICER THAT HE HAD ALREADY REQUESTED LEAVE FROM HIS TEACHING POSITION IN ORDER TO CAMPAIGN FOR HA THUC KY SLATE. ANH WAS THEM ASSASSINATED IN NHA TRANG, WHERE HE HAD GONE TO ADMINISTER BACCALUREATE EXAMINATIONS, ON JULY 15. COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCES INABILITY OF "TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITIES" TO PROTECT PROFESSORS AND STATES THAT "TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITIES" BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANH'S DEATH. IT ALSO DENOUNCES MINISTRY OF INFORMATION FOR DISTORTING NEWS OF THE AFFAIR. LASTLY, COMMUNIQUE ASSERTS THAT "REACTIONARY AND UNDEMOCRATIC FORCES ARE PLOTTING DIFFICULTIES AND DEATH FOR OPPOSING LISTS" IN SEPTEMBER 3 ELECTIONS.

2. ANH KILLING ALSO ENTERED INTO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON VALIDATION OF THIEU-KY CANDIDACY. MRS DEPUTY NGUYEN VAN SANG MENTIONED IT AS EXAMPLE OF HIGH STAKES INVOLVED IN ELECTION AND ARGUMENT FOR TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ADMINISTER IT. DAM VAN QUY REPLIED THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES WERE PERHAPS AT FAULT FOR HAVING PROVIDED INSUFFICIENT SECURITY, BUT THAT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT COULD HARDLY BE BLAMED. NGAI THEN MADE RATHER IMPASSIONED SPEECH IN WHICH HE REPEATED SOME OF CHARGES MADE IN COMMUNIQUE.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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3. RDV LEADER HA THUC KY ASKED TO SEE EMBOFF NIGHT OF JULY 18 TO DISCUSS THE ASSASSINATION. KY TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS SURE CULPRITS WERE STUDENT MEMBERS OF NGUYEN CAO KY'S ANTI-CORRUPTION YOUTH GROUP WHO WERE DELIBERATELY CARRYING OUT A POLITICAL MURDER. KY FURTHER ASSERTED THAT LOCAL POLICE REFUSED TO HELP ANH, AND AMERICANS HAD TO TAKE HIM TO HOSPITAL. GVN ALSO ALLEGEDLY REFUSED FLY ANH'S BODY BACK TO DA NANG. KY SEES ALL OF THIS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL NATURE OF MURDER. KY SAID THAT ANH FUNERAL SCHEDULED FOR JULY 19, AND THAT RDV PLANS TO TAKE OCCASION TO STAGE SERIES OF PEACEFUL PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN SAIGON, DANANG, NHA TRANG, HUE AND PERHAPS OTHER CENTERS.

4. POLAD DANANG REPORTS THAT ANH ASSASSINATION IS VIEWED THERE AS ATTACK ON PROFESSOR BY DISGRUNTLED STUDENTS, RATHER THAN AS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED MURDER. THIS IS WIDELY ACCEPTED INTERPRETATION IN NON-DAI VIET CIRCLES. VIETNAM PRESS REPORTS IT IS VENDETTA OF STUDENTS WHOM ANH HAD CAUGHT CHEATING. (THIS MAY BE BASIS FOR NGAI'S COMPLAINT AGAINST MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.) VIET-NAM PRESS ADDS THAT SIX YOUTHS WERE APPREHENDED AND WILL

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BE SPEEDILY BROUGHT TO TRIAL. AS RESULT OF ASSASSINATION, PROFESSORS ADMINISTERING BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATIONS IN SAIGON HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO GO ON "INDEFINITE STRIKE" UNITL THEIR SECURITY CAN BE GUARANTEED. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, FOR WHOM ANH WAS CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE, HAS REPORTEDLY BEGUN FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO JUDGE WHETHER OR NOT KILLING WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. AT MOMENT WE ARE INCLINED TO DISCOUNT HA THUC KY'S ALLEGATIONS, BUT WE ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ANH KILLING FROM EMBOFFS IN DANANG AND NHA TRANG. BUNKER
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